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DEPARTMENT OF RED CROSS NURSING

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Who has not dreamed of Constantinople as a city rich in history, a city of mystery and dreadful deeds, of mosques and minarets and veiled Turkish women, of bazaars filled with oriental rugs and wonderful embroideries and jewels? It is all this, but at present it is more, for after centuries of Turkish rule it is now under Allied control,—French, English, Greek and Italian,—with British war ships in the harbor, and an occasional American man-of-war. British Tommies guide the traffic and in their own emphatic Tommy English, swat stick in hand, struggle with all nationalities from the Sheik from the desert—leading or riding his camel—to the high powered cars of the representatives of America, Japan, France and other countries.

Under the Allied control the city has been given a spring cleaning, while there may be hidden abominations, the streets were wonderfully clean and even the dogs, the street cleaning department of the former Turkish Government, have all disappeared. The dog to the Turk is a sacred animal, hence to kill him would be murder. Therefore, when the order went forth that they must be disposed of the Turks, loaded them into boats and transported them to the rocky and uninhabited island of Proti, where they slowly starved to death or were devoured by each other. Consistency, not to mention humanity, is apparently not a Turkish characteristic.

It was not with such matters that we were primarily concerned for there were many Red Cross nurses in and around Constantinople, about thirty with those of the Near East Relief, a few of whom were engaged in important activities in and around the city. Miss McQuaide, with Dr. Graves, a woman physician, had established six Child Welfare Stations in the poorer districts. Women and children came in large numbers to these clinics for examination and advice. As elsewhere, under and improper feeding was the rule. Clothing and simple food, such as milk, cocoa and rice were distributed to the mothers. The patients were also followed to their homes. In order to do this efficiently Miss McQuaide had taught a group of perhaps ten young women, Armenians and Greeks, to act as assistants. They seemed eager and competent. They were neatly uniformed and expressed a great desire to study nursing. Four were already making preparation to come to America for this purpose.

Miss Emma Wood was acting as Chief Nurse to the Near East Relief and at the same time directing a large hospital for children

suffering with tuberculosis in its various forms at Yedi Kouli beyond the famous walls. It was located in a well constructed hospital building which had been loaned for this purpose. One would have at first thought believed herself in America. The wards, neat and well supplied, the outdoor sleeping porches, the dressing rooms, mess hall and well clothed children, spoke of efficient management and modern methods of treatment. Here again a group of native young women were being trained in the care of tuberculous patients. Farther up the Bosphorus, a trachoma hospital was rapidly developing. While in Constantinople in old Stamboul, Mrs. Rothrock, formerly superintendent of the Woman's Hospital and Training School in Fall River, with five Red Cross nurses, had performed a miracle. An old harem, illy suited for the purpose, had been converted into a modern institution, known as the American Hospital and in connection therewith she had laid the foundation of a school of nursing. Already four pupils had entered and others were expected. It would take too long to describe this institution in detail but with a strong committee; with President Patrick of the American College for Women; Representatives from Robert College for Men; The American Board of Missions; Admiral Mark A. Bristol, American High Commissioner in Command of American Naval Affairs, also Chairman of the Constantinople Chapter, American Red Cross; the Red Cross Commissioner; the Standard Oil Company and various other American business groups; all serving thereon, the hospital seems destined to play an important part in the community, not only as a hospital of eighty beds with clinics of all types, but as an educational center for native women, for the American College graduates and others who wish to prepare for nursing. Nurses are so sadly needed in that part of the world and while a few American nurses can organize schools, hospitals and child welfare work, they cannot stay and assume the entire responsibility. This should be done by the people themselves. The far reaching influence of the instruction given by the American College for Women and by Robert College for Men, is seen in the East wherever one goes. These schools, and others like them, have certainly played a very remarkable part in the development of the country and especially of the Balkan States.

A modern school of nursing has, like these, a wonderful opportunity in raising health standards in the same district, at the same time opening a new field of endeavor for native women. All these activities were later deflected toward the care of the Russian refugees who were packed on ships in the Harbor. These unfortunate people had fled from the Bolsheviki Army which had advanced into the Crimea against General Wrangel and his Army which retreated in

the face of overwhelming numbers. It was a heart-rending situation. The Russians,—about 150,000 men, women and children,—were packed into probably eighty ships so closely that it was impossible for them to lie down unless they “took turns.” The decks were crowded with people for whom there was insufficient food and water and inadequate or no shelter. They were exposed to rain and cold, for the nights were pitifully severe. Can you picture the misery! In this state, for it took endless time to decide their fate and make provision for their debarkation, it has been estimated that many remained over forty days! Nearly a month later we overtook some of the ships at Ragusa on the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic, with the same people still on them. Yet they seemed cheerful and when asked how they had been able to retain their courage, they invariably smiled and said, “Think what we have escaped!” It was a pitiful situation, for their future seemed, to us at least, almost without hope.

The war ridden and exhausted countries to which these refugees were being sent were already overburdened with a war orphan and a refugee problem of their own. Recent reports from Constantinople state that the situation is still very acute, and that clothing is greatly needed as well as food.

The nurses in Constantinople have all returned to their own particular jobs and, while they are still concerned with this type of relief work, they are once more building, little by little, toward permanent health organizations and a better understanding, on the part of the natives, of hygiene and higher standards of living.

DELANO MEMORIAL NURSES

One of the most important matters considered at the recent meeting of the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service was the legacy left by Jane A. Delano for the support of public health nurses in rural districts. In addition to the income from \$25,000.00, the royalties from the sale of the textbooks on Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, are by the terms of the will to be used for this purpose. Nurses appointed will be known as “Delano Memorial Nurses”. The National Committee is now working on a plan for the use of this money, which will be given in detail as soon as it is completed. Nurses who are selected as Memorial Nurses should consider it a great honor to be asked to carry on a form of work in which Miss Delano was herself so much interested, the care of the poorer people in remote rural districts.

The National Committee also considered the use of the public health Red Cross Scholarships. The last appropriation for this purpose had been unrestricted. It was voted, however, to restrict the next appropriation to those who are willing to perform, upon the

completion of the course, a year in public health nursing under the auspices of the American Red Cross.

The provisional enrollment for public health nurses, established during the war, which permitted a nurse to make application and to accept an assignment even though she did not meet the full requirements for complete enrollment, was carefully considered, and recommended for continuance, with the understanding that this enrollment be limited to one year, when it would automatically cease unless a nurse entered a course to prepare herself for public health nursing. Appointment cards and badges are not issued to nurses who are provisionally enrolled. However, if they are serving the American Red Cross, they may wear the uniform and be known as Red Cross public health nurses.

The use and misuse of the Red Cross badge, which has become a sacred emblem of service, was also discussed. Hundreds of these badges are lost during the year, which led the National Committee to believe that they were being carelessly worn. Every effort will be made by the Red Cross to see that the catch is strong, and in this way avoid some of the losses.

Regulations for Wearing the Badge of the Red Cross Nursing Service are being issued to all new enrollments, and are as follows:

Each nurse receiving a badge should make every effort to protect it against misuse and loss. In order to do this we call your attention to the regulations governing its use as approved by the National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service, April 23, 1921.

FIRST: It may be worn by an enrolled Red Cross Nurse only, and then as a badge and not as a pin.

SECOND: When in Red Cross uniform it may be worn:

- (a) With the indoor uniform to fasten the collar in front.
- (b) With the out-door uniform it may also be used to fasten the collar of the waist.
- (c) It may be worn two inches below and three inches to the left of the lower left hand point of the collar.

THIRD: It may be worn at a Red Cross function with civilian clothes or with evening dress. When worn in this way, it must not be used as a pin, but should be worn on the left of the waist, in relatively the same position as described in (c) above.

Your attention is directed to the paragraph regarding the badge in A.R.C. 703, the circular of information for nurses desiring to enroll with the Red Cross:

"The badge will remain at all times the property of the American Red Cross, and in case of resignation or annulment of appointment, it is to be returned by the nurse to National Headquarters Nursing Service. This may be done through the Division Director of Nursing Service. In the event of death, the badge should be returned by a relative, or by the administrator of the estate. The use of the badge is protected by an Act of Congress, and it must not be worn by any other than the person to whom it is issued. Duplicate badges to replace those lost or destroyed will be issued by National Headquarters upon a written statement of the nurse, and upon the payment of \$1.00."